Rail link from Udaipur to Nathdwara Temple

1537. DR. BAPU KALDATE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) what was the rate of passengers arriving at Udaipur city by rail per month during the period from January to December, 1985; and

(b) whether in view of the heavy rush of visitors to Nathdwara Temple, Government propose to link Udaipur city to Nathdwara Temple by train?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The average rate of passengers arriving Udaipur city per month by rail during the period January to December, 1985 was 34769.

(b) Two pairs of trains are already available providing direct daily service for passngers wishing to travel from Udaipur City to Nathdwara station.

Pupil-Teacher Ratio in the Country

1538. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the World Bank estimates that India would have the largest concentration of illiterate population in the world by 2000 A.D.;

(b) what is the pupil-teacher ratio in India in comparison to such ratio in other developing nations of the world; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Government is aware of the projections made by the World Bank. Literacy situation in the world is analysed by UNESCO, based on the data available for each country. The Census operations in India conducted at an interval of ten years collect *inter-alia* data pertaining to literacy. According to 1981 Census the percentage of illiteracy in the country for population of all age-groups was 63.77 per cent. The next Census will be due in 1991.

(b) A statement is attached (*See* below).

(b) The main thrust areas in the Seventh Plan to raise the literacy level include achievement of universal elementary education, non-formal education and eradication of illiteracy in the age-group of 15—35 years. National Policy on Education—1986 envisages following strategies to raise the level of literacy:

(i) Systematic programmes of adult education will be organised for eradication of illiteracy, particularly in the 15—35 age-group;

(ii) Thrust will be universal enrolment and universal retention of children upto 14 years of age;

(iii) A large and systematic programme of non-formal education will be launched for school dropouts, for children from habitations without schools, working children and girls who cannot attend whole day schools;

(iv) Highest priority will be given to solve the problem of children dropping out of school by adopting meticulously formulated strategies to ensure children's retention at school.

(v) Special measures will be taken up for removal of illiteracy among women, scheduled castes and cheduled tribes.

(vi) At least two teachers, one of whom a woman, will be appointed in every school, the number increasing as early as possible to one teacher per class.